Marine Aequarium and Research Centre at Digha

2272. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken to set up a Marine Acquarium corn-Research Centre at Digha, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the progress in this regard; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to expedite the progress of its construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The project consists of a Marine Acquarium and a Research Centre. The Research Centre has been completed and is already in operation. Construciton of building for the Marine Acqurium has also been completed. Contract for constructing and furnishing the Acquarium is to be executed in three stages. The first stage of construction has been completed. The second stage includes collection, transportation, acclimatisation and introduction of marine specimens and the third stage includes training of the designated Zoological Survey of India staff members for upkeep of the Acquarium. Steps have been taken to get the second and third stage expedited.

Merger of sick fertilizer units with healthy units

2273. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to merge sick fertilizer units with healthy units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if these units are not taken over the fate of such units, unit-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does .lot arise.

(c) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) are the two fertilizer manufacturing Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The option of takeover of the units of these PSUs by any of the profit making fertilizer undertakings was explored by the Government. Because of the prior commitments of these undertakings towards their own ongoing expansion projects and joint ventures for augmenting the fertilizer production capacity, no such proposal could materialise.

(d) In order to restore the financial health of FCI and HFC, the Government had approved, in principal, revival packages in April, 1995 which envisaged the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI; and Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup units of HFC, entailing of a fresh invetsment of Rs. 2201.13 crore at 1994 price levels, apart from capital restucturing and financial reliefs to the undertakings. The funding arrangement for these packages could not be tied up. An expert Group was thereafter constituted to reformulate the revival packages. The Group appointed a consultancy organisation to undertake an independent appraisal of the technical viability of the revival packages from the standpoint of funding by the Financial Institutions. The consultancy organisation has since submitted its report, based on which the Group would reformulate the revival packages. The final decision on the implementation of the reformulated revival packages would depend upon the tie up of funding arrangements and outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi judicial authority.

ग्रामीण कार्यात्मक साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत साक्षरता प्राप्त किया जाना

2274. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पुनर्गठित ग्रामीण कार्यात्मक साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत वर्ष 1996 और 1997 के दौरान कितने लोगों को साक्षर बनाये जाने का अनुमान है;

(ख) इस कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत लाये जाने वाले ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) प्राप्त किए गए लक्ष्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) इस योजना के अन्तर्गत ऐसा कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है। इस योजना का कार्य क्षेत्र उन गिने-चुने क्षेत्रों तक ही सीमित है जिनमें संपूर्ण साक्षरता आभियानों (टी॰एल॰सी॰) को कार्यान्वित नहीं किया जा सका है। इस प्रकार यह योजना, जिन क्षेत्रों में संपूर्ण साक्षरता अभियान कार्यान्वित नहीं किए जा सके, उन्हें संपूर्ण साक्षरता अभियान से जोड़ती है। विभिन्न राज्यों में संपूर्ण साक्षरता अभियान के कार्यान्वयन की तेज गति को देखते हुए, ग्रामीण कार्यात्मक साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के कार्यान्वयन में स्वत: ही कमी आई, अतएव वर्ष 1995-96 तथा 1996-97 के लिए इस योजना के लिए बजट का टोकन प्रावधान रखा गया है।

(ग) वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान कोई प्रस्ताव संस्वीकृत नहीं किया गया। वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान, पूर्वी, पश्चिमी, उत्तरी तथा दक्षिणी जिलों में 5168 निरक्षरों को शामिल करने के लिए सिक्किम राज्य में चार परियोजनाएं संस्वीकृत की गई। इस परियोजना का अभी कार्यान्वयन चल रहा है।

Use of Plastics in Horticulture

2275. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULUTE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging the use of plastics in favour of drip irrigation, green houses and plastic mulches to improve production of horticltural crops;

(b) if so, how far these have been popularized among Indian farmers in various States; and

(c) whether Government are providing financial assistance to popularise the use of plastics in horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area covered upto March 1996 under drip installation, green house and plastic mulch is 1.4 lakh ha., 300 ha. and 2540 ha. respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Hunger Strike by FCI Emplyees

2276. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) employees at Ramagundam observed relay hunger strike recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) The employees of Ramagundam unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) went on relay hunger strike from 16.10.96 to 20.10.96 in support of their demand for implementation of wage revision under fifth round of wage negotiations in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). FCI had been declared as a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). FCI management is unable to implement wage revision of the workers as it did not fulfil the conditions laid down under the extant Government guidelines for the fifth round of wage negotiations in PSEs. Salary revision in respect of other categories of employees can be considered once the BIFR approves revival package for FCI, including its Ramagundam unit.

Action Against Errant Teachers of Government Schools

2277. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to answer to Unstarred Question 2616, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th August, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the percentage of the first generation learners, as reported by the Government of NCT of Delhi, is based on authentic survey;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the teachers of Government Schools have engaged themselves in private tuitions which indirectly contribute to their negligent attitude in the classes;